

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY GETS BRIEFING FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS ON CHARLEY
URGES CITIZENS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS DURING STORM RECOVERY**

WILMINGTON – Gov. Mike Easley today met with local officials from Brunswick and New Hanover counties, the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Charley, to get a briefing on storm damage and recovery efforts. Hurricane Charley made its final pass through North Carolina yesterday at approximately 9:30 p.m. Easley also urged citizens to take precautions during the next several days during storm clean up.

“North Carolina appears to have escaped major, widespread damage from Hurricane Charley,” said Easley. “Most counties reported isolated damage and scattered power outages. However, we must remain cautious during recovery efforts. There is a flood watch in effect over much of Eastern North Carolina until noon tomorrow. The rain today could bring additional flooding in many low-lying areas.”

There have been reports of scattered localized flooding and minor flooding is expected in the Chowan Basin. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) reports flooding on roads in Bladen, Lenoir and Pitt counties.

“State agencies have mobilized their resource and have the manpower, equipment and materials in place to expedite recovery,” said Easley. “The State Emergency Response Team put the resources in place ahead of the storm to ensure that we were able to respond quickly to this storm.”

The North Carolina National Guard continues to have soldiers on active duty to help with recovery efforts. DOT crews are working through the southeastern part of our state removing debris and clearing the roads. All roads are expected to be open within the week. For highway conditions, visit <http://www.ncsmartlink.org> and click on "Real-Time Travel Info" or call 1-877-DOT4YOU.

Local officials have already begun completing damage assessment reports. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and North Carolina Emergency Management officials will have teams in the field tomorrow to conduct additional damage assessments in impacted areas. Final damage reports are not expected for several days.